111

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

Text of a speech delivered by Mr. Salem Azzam Secretary General, Islamic Council at a rally held at Wembley on Sunday, 9th September, 1990.

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

Dear Brothers & Sisters

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatahu.

I consider it a great honour and a privilege to have been invited to chair this rally on Kashmir.

The question of Kashmir has always been close to my heart and at every international conference that the Islamic Council held over the past 10 years we passed resolutions on Kashmir and included them in the Conference Communiques. We also did whatever else we could to help the cause of our Kashmiri brothers.

It is a matter of deep concern that even after a lapse of more than four decades the question of Kashmir remains unresolved. As we all know India occupied the Muslim state of Jamu and Kashmir by the force of arms and continues to do so in blatant violation of a United Nations resolution passed in 1949 for holding a plebicite to decide whether the state should join India or Pakistan. At that time the government of India committed itself to implement the U.N. resolution but went back on it. Eversince India has been blatantly violating the human rights of the Muslim people of Kashmir. In recent months the Indian

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH

brutalities have assumed monstrous proportions. The heavily armed Indian Army in Kashmir, over 300,000 strong, has killed, injured and maimed thousands of Kashmiri Muslim men, women and children and the massacre goes on unabated and with increasing ferocity. But the world powers, the United Nations, and human rights organisations have not batted an eyelid and continue to remain silent onlookers. It is a matter of great shame and a reflection on the sincerity of all those who claim to be champions of human rights, international law and civilised behaviour.

Today the valiant Kashmiri Mujahideen are engaged in a heroic struggle for their right of self-determination, for the implementation of the U.N. resolution and to break out of the Indian shackles which have kept them enslaved for more than four decades.

We salute the valiant Muslim people of Kashmir and reiterate our total and unreserved solidarity with them in their heroic struggle. We call upon the world Muslim community to extend all possible moral, political and material help to the long-suffering Kashmiri Muslim brothers. We also pray to Allah to help them and crown their struggle with success.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Since Muslims all over the world are a single brotherhood, we cannot ignore our other Muslim brothers who also have been

victims of brutal oppression. I am referring to our Palestinian brothers . The question of Palestine is a classic example of hypocracy, double standards and contempt of international law. Inspite of unimaginable attrocities committed by Israel on the Palestinians and unending violation of their human rights, the United States vetoed many United Nations resolutions against Israel; resolutions which had overwhelming support of member states. Not only this, but the United States has been rewarding Israel by supplying it with dreadful weapons and massive economic aid, enabling Israel to commit aggression against the Arab people. Despite being fully aware of Israel's arrogant contempt for the United Nations, human rights and international law no major world power talked of economic sanctions or other measures against Israel. The truth is that it is the vested interests of world powers which determine whether or not action should be taken against violations of human rights, U.N. resolutions, international law and norms of civilized behaviour.

And the irony of it all is that now the principal ally and backer of Israel against Muslims, the United States, has assembled a terrible war machine in the Gulf region on the pretext of defending the Gulf states.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A most serious situation is developing in the Gulf and the threat is not to this or that state but to the entire Muslim

world. The Muslim Ummah must realize the grave threat that the Muslim world is facing and must act before it is too late.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let the Muslim people all over the world demand with one powerful voice the withdrawl of the Indian Army from the state of Jamu and Kashmir and the implementation of the U.N. resolution to hold a plebicite to decide the state's future. Let us also demand with one powerful voice the withdrawl of the Israeli army from the occupied territories and return them to their rightful owners and respect the rights of the Palestinian people.

And last but no means the least, let us demand by one powerful voice immediate withdrawl of the armed forces of United States and its allies from the holy land of Islam and the Gulf region. The need of the hour is for all Muslims to unite as one man and act unitedly to safeguard their interests against the grave dangers that are threatening them. Let us also pray to Allah for His help and mercy.

Dated 9th September, 1990.